

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims have been amended as set forth in the following listing of the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An ion elution unit generating metal ions by applying a voltage between electrodes,

wherein an interval between the electrodes becomes narrower from an upstream side to a downstream side with respect to a water current flowing through an inside a space is secured between the electrodes and an inner surface of a casing of the ion elution unit.

2. (Currently Amended) An ion elution unit generating metal ions by applying a voltage between electrodes, comprising:~~The ion elution unit according to claim 1,~~

~~wherein terminals that are so laid as to run from the electrodes out of a casing of the ion elution unit, the terminals being disposed on an upstream side with respect to a water current flowing through an inside of the casing an interval between the electrodes becomes narrower from an upstream side to a downstream side with respect to a water current flowing through an inside of a casing of the ion elution unit.~~

3. (Currently Amended) An ion elution unit generating metal ions by applying a voltage between electrodes, comprising:~~The ion elution unit according to claim 2,~~

~~wherein terminals that are so laid as to run from the electrodes out of a casing of the casing of the ion elution unit, the terminals being are disposed on an upstream side the upstream side with respect to a water current the water current flowing through an inside of the inside of~~

the casing, and a supporting portion for supporting downstream-side parts of the electrodes being formed on an ~~is formed on the~~ inner surface of the casing.

4. (Currently Amended) An ion elution unit generating metal ions by applying a voltage between electrodes, comprising: The ion elution unit according to claim 2,
wherein terminals laid from the electrodes being so formed as to penetrate a bottom wall of a casing of the ion elution unit and protrude downward ~~a water inflow port and a water outflow port are formed in the casing of the ion elution unit, and the water outflow port is given a smaller cross-sectional area than the water inflow port.~~

5. (Currently Amended) An ion elution unit generating metal ions by applying a voltage between electrodes, comprising: The ion elution unit according to claim 2,
wherein a water inflow port and a water outflow port formed in a casing of the ion elution unit,
wherein the water outflow port is given a larger cross-sectional area than the water inflow port ~~a cross-sectional area of an interior space of the casing gradually decreases from the upstream side to the downstream side.~~

6. (Currently Amended) An ion elution unit generating metal ions by applying a voltage between electrodes, comprising: The ion elution unit according to claim 1,
wherein a casing,

wherein a cross-sectional area of an interior space of the casing of the ion elution unit gradually decreases from an upstream side to a downstream side~~a water inflow port and a water outflow port are formed in the casing of the ion elution unit, and the water outflow port is located in a lowest position within an interior space of the casing.~~

7. (Currently Amended) An ion elution unit generating metal ions by applying a voltage between electrodes, comprising: ~~The ion elution unit according to claim 1,~~

wherein a water inflow port and a water outflow port formed in a casing of the ion elution unit,

wherein the water outflow port is located in a lowest position within an interior space of the casing, ~~of the electrodes, any positive electrode is made of one of silver, copper, zinc, or silver-copper alloy.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The ion elution unit according to any one of claims 1 to 7~~claim 1,~~

wherein, of the electrodes, a positive electrode is both positive and negative electrodes ~~are made of one of silver, copper, zinc, or silver-copper alloy.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The ion elution unit according any one of claims 1 to 7~~to claim 8,~~

wherein, of the electrodes, both positive and negative electrodes are made of one of silver, copper, zinc, or silver-copper alloy ~~polarities of the electrodes are reversed periodically.~~

10. (Currently Amended) An appliance, ~~comprising: comprising~~
_____ the ion elution unit according to ~~claim 9~~claim-8,
_____ wherein ~~polarities of the electrodes are reversed periodically~~the metal ions generated by
the ion elution unit are used by being added to water.

11. (Currently Amended) An appliance, ~~comprising: comprising~~
_____ the ion elution unit according to claim 9,
_____ wherein the metal ions generated by the ion elution unit are used by being added to water.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~An appliance comprising: The appliance according to claim~~
10,
_____ the ion elution unit according to claim 10,
wherein the ~~metal ions generated by the ion elution unit are used by being added to~~
~~water~~appliance is a washing machine.

13. (Previously Presented) The appliance according to claim 11,
wherein the appliance is a washing machine.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The appliance according to claim 12~~An ion elution unit that
generates metal ions by applying a voltage between electrodes,

wherein the appliance is a washing machine~~terminals that are so laid as to run from the electrodes out of a casing of the ion elution unit are formed in a position inward of ends of the electrodes located on an upstream side with respect to a water current flowing through an inside of the casing.~~

15. (Canceled)
16. (Canceled)
17. (Canceled)
18. (Canceled)
19. (Canceled)
20. (Canceled)
21. (Canceled)
22. (Canceled)
23. (Canceled)
24. (Canceled)